

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 IO-03 ACDA-10

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P 141500Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8325

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2876

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR US

SUBJECT: GREEK-TURKISH TENSIONS - REPORT FROM THE GREEK CHARGE
IN WASHINGTON

1. AT ONE POINT WHEN I WAS TALKING TO BITSIOS ON SATURDAY,
HE GOOD-NATUREDLY REFERRED TO A TELEGRAM HE HAD ON HAND FROM
THE GREEK CHARGE IN WASHINGTON. BITSIOS SAID THAT THE CHARGE
WAS BEING GIVEN A "HARD TIME" IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING GREEK-
TURKISH RELATIONS AND TENSIONS IN THE AEGEAN. LOOKING AT THE
CHARGES REPORTING TELEGRAM, BITSIOS SAID-- REFERRING TO THE
CHARGE--THAT THE "POOR MAN" WAS GIVING "ALL THE PROPER
ANSWERS", BUT WAS EVIDENTLY FEELING STRONG PRESSURE FROM THE
DEPT FOR GREECE TO EASE OFF ON SOME OF ITS ACTIONS
AND STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE AEGEAN. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE
HOPED THAT I HAD TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON THE CONTENTS OF
THE FULL BRIEFING TZOUNIS HAD GIVEN US A WEEK AGO CONCERNING
THE GREEK POSITION ON THE AEGEAN ISLANDS AND THE GOG
TREATY INTERPRETATIONS CONCERNING THESE ISLANDS.

2. I TOLD BITSIOS THAT WE HAD INDEED REPORTED TO WASHINGTON
THAT VERY HELPFUL BRIEFING BY TZOUNIS, AND I AGREED TO
CONVEY THESE COMMENTS OF HIS ABOUT HIS CHARGE. HOWEVER, I
WENT ON, HE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE FOR A MOMENT THE INTENSE
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CONCERN IN WASHINGTON ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AEGEAN,

INCLUDING GREEK REINFORCEMENT AND/OR MILITARIZATION OF SOME OF THE GREEK ISLANDS IN THE EASTERN AEGEAN, AND ABOUT STRONGLY WORDED STATEMENTS BY GOG OFFICIALS THAT ADDED TO GREEK-TURKISH TENSIONS IN THE AREA. I SAID THAT WE HAD VERY MUCH APPRECIATED THE GOG KEEPING US INFORMED OF THEIR OWN POSITION AND VIEWS ON THESE QUESTIONS AND THAT WE FELT A RESPONSIBILITY AND INDEED A NECESSITY TO MAKE CERTAIN THE GOG WAS EQUALLY APPRISED OF OUR OWN VIEWS. I SAID THAT THE GOG SHOULD BE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE USG POSITION AND SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT THE USG WOULD SUPPORT GREECE IN A DISPUTE WITH TURKEY CONCERNING THE AEGEAN NO MATTER WHAT GREECE HAD DONE TO PROVOKE THE DISPUTE OR HOW GREECE REACTED TO IT.

3. BITSIOS THEN LAUGHED AT MY REACTION AND INDICATED THAT HE WAS MERELY TRYING TO GIVE HIS CHARGE IN WASHINGTON SOME MORAL SUPPORT IN DEALING WITH DEPT OFFICIALS.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL HARASSMENT, ISLAND CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS02876
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750129-0707
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750454/aaaabxtw.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK-TURKISH TENSIONS - REPORT FROM THE GREEK CHARGE IN WASHINGTON
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, GR, US, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006